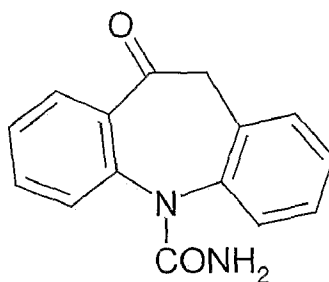


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 10-12 as shown:

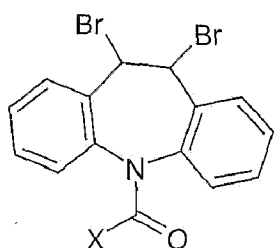
1. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing 10,11-dihydro-10-oxo-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-5-carboxamide, compound of formula I,



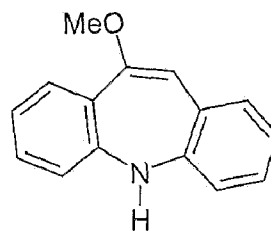
Formula I

said process comprising

- (a) reacting compound of formula IVb with alkali metal methoxide to yield compound of formula II; and



Formula IVb (X=Cl, Br)



Formula II

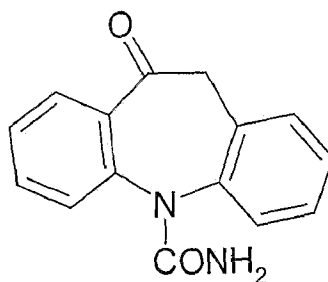
- (b) converting compound of formula II to compound of formula I.

2. (Previously Presented) A Process as claimed in claim 1 wherein in step (a) the alkali metal methoxide is selected from sodium methoxide and potassium methoxide.

3. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein in step (a) the molar ratio of compound of formula IVb to alkali metal methoxide is about 1:12 to 1:15.

4. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein step (a) is carried out for about 16 to 20 hours.

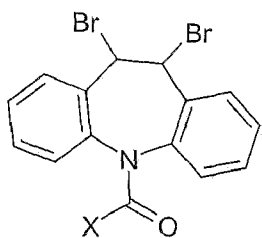
5. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing 10,11-dihydro-10-oxo-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-5-carboxamide, compound of formula I,



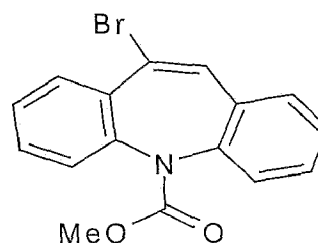
Formula I

said process comprising

(a) dehydrobrominating and esterifying compound of formula IVb to give compound of formula VI; and



Formula IVb (X=Cl, Br)



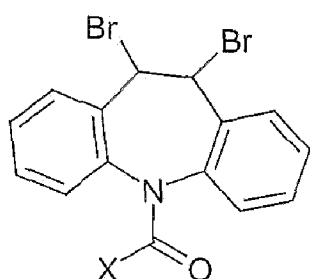
Formula VI

(b) converting compound of formula VI to compound of formula I.

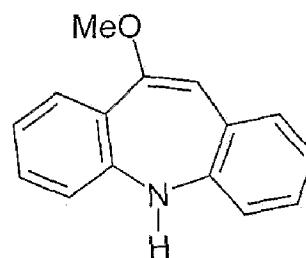
6. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 5 wherein step (a) is carried out with alkali metal methoxide.

7. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 6 wherein alkali metal methoxide is selected from sodium methoxide and potassium methoxide.

8. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 6 wherein the molar ratio of compound of formula IVb to alkali metal methoxide is about 1:2 to 1:3.
9. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 5 where in step (a) is carried out for about 2 to 5 hours.
10. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing compound of formula II, said process comprising reacting compound of formula IVb with alkali metal methoxide to yield compound of formula II:

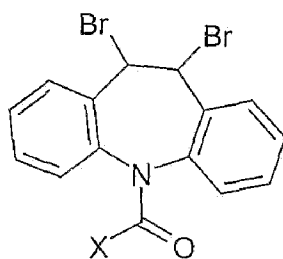


Formula IVb (X=Cl, Br)

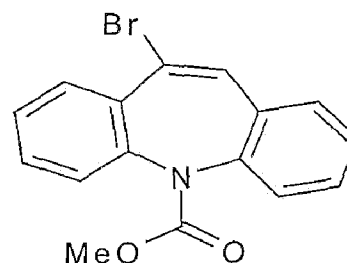


Formula II₂

11. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing compound of formula VI, said process comprising dehydrobrominating and esterifying compound of formula IVb to give compound of formula VI:



Formula IVb (X=Cl, Br)



Formula VI₂

12. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 11 wherein dehydrobromination and esterification is carried out with alkali metal methoxide.